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UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
EUGENE DISTRICT OFFICE

Decision Record
Road Decommissioning and Road Realignment
Environmental Assessment No. OR090-99-21

BACKGROUND

An Environmental Assessment (EA) and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the Road Decommissioning and Road Realignment Project was prepared by the South Valley Field Office, Eugene District.

FONSI

On the basis of the information contained in the Environmental Assessment, and all other information Available to me, it is my determination that implementation of the proposed action or alternatives will not have significant environmental impacts not already addressed in the *Record of Decision (ROD) for Amendments to Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management Planning Documents Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl* (April 1994) and the *Eugene District Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan* (June 1995), with which this EA is in conformance, and does not, in and of itself, constitute a major federal action having a significant effect on the human environment. Therefore, an environmental impact statement or a supplement to the existing environmental impact statement is not necessary and will not be prepared.

DECISION

The decision is to implement the Proposed Action of the Road Decommissioning and Road Realignment Project, as described and analyzed in EA OR090-99-25. The mitigation measures, design features, and management requirements, as described in the EA, are hereby adopted.

The Proposed Action is in conformance with the Record of Decision for Amendments to Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management Planning Documents with the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl, April 1994, and the Eugene District Record of Decision (ROD)/Resource Management Plan (RMP), June 1995.

RATIONALE

The Proposed Action was selected because it best meets the purpose and need as stated in the EA. The Proposed Action decommissions roads having negative impacts to Aquatic Conservation Strategy (ACS) Objectives and providing little current resource management need. The Proposed Action realigns Combs Creek road to a more stable location which maintains and promotes restoration of ACS objectives while recognizing long term transportation needs of both BLM and the adjacent landowner.

The No Action Alternative would continue current conditions, which are causing negative impacts to ACS Objectives.

Alternative A would improve current conditions, but would reopen a road into a Late Successional Reserve that is not needed. Alternative A would also reconstruct the Combs Creek road in its current unstable location, thus risking future, negative ACS impacts.

CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION

A public notice advertising the availability of the EA and FONSI appeared in the Eugene Register-Guard on July 21, 1999. Additionally, the EA and FONSI were mailed to interested individuals and organizations (EA, p. 14). A 7-day public comment period closed on July 29, 1999. No comments were received.

Pursuant to the Endangered Species Act, consultation was completed with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, which found that the action "may affect but is not likely to adversely affect" the Northern Spotted Owl or its habitat.

There are no proposed or listed fish species under the Endangered Species Act located in or near the project area; therefore, consultation with the National Marine Fisheries Service was not necessary.

ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW OPPORTUNITIES

The decision to implement this project may be appealed to the Office of Hearings and Appeals, Office of the Secretary, U.S. Department of the Interior, in accordance with the regulations contained in 43 CFR Part 4. If an appeal is taken, the notice of appeal must be filed in this office within thirty (30) days of the first publication of the notice of this decision in the Eugene Register-Guard on August 4, 1999, for transmittal to the Board. A copy of the notice of appeal and any statement of reasons, written arguments, or briefs, must also be served upon the Regional Solicitor, Pacific Northwest Region, U.S. Department of the Interior, 500 NE Multnomah Street, Suite 607, Portland, Oregon 97323, within the same time frame. In taking an appeal, there must be strict compliance with the regulations. In accordance with 43 CFR 4.21, an appellant has the right to petition the Office of Hearing and Appeals to stay the implementation of the decision; however, an appellant must show standing and present reasons for requesting a stay of the decision. The petition for stay must be filed together with a timely notice of appeal.

Signed by: Steven A. Calish, Field Manager, South Valley Resource Area, on August 3, 1999